

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 3

FALL 1997

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



During the first month of the campaign since the kick-off on September 7, more than \$40,000 has been received in cash and pledges from over sixty donors.

Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates

(Donors of \$10,000 or more)

Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel

Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA

Enoch Foster Partners

(Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)

Anonymous

Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, Boston, MA

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society

(Donors of \$1000-\$2499)

Rep. Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel

Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Bethel

Lynda H. Chandler, Brunswick

Dana and Barbara Douglass

Exxon Corporation, Houston, TX

Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel

Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin

Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Geoffrey and Martha Clark, Portsmouth, NH

John and Margaret King, Lakeland, FL

Persis Post, Bethel

Martin Silver, Norway

Friends of the Foster-Straw House

(Donors of up to \$499)

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; Bradley and Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; John and Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Norma Buck, Oxford; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Cathy Canavan, Cool, CA; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Eva Conroy, Auburn; Katherine

(continued on page 6)



Upper Main Street prior to 1916: the Cole Block (center) with E.E. Burnham, millinery/fancy goods and the Bethel Savings Bank on the first floor, the Hastings Bros. hardware store (now site of Northeast Bank) next door, with Pushard Drug Store building, which burned in 1916 in the background (current site of Annie Hastings' garage).

BETHEL'S MAIN STREET THROUGH HISTORY: A HISTORICAL SURVEY

By Rosalind R. Chapman

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this brief survey of sites on Main Street by Mrs. Chapman was published in the December 1978 issue of the COURIER and is presented here in revised, expanded and updated form. Mrs. Chapman and the Society are grateful to all who have helped make this article and its revision possible.

The main street of any town is perhaps the most dynamic and important part of any community since it is often essential to business and commerce. Here are also reflected the nature of the community, changes in the town's growth and economy, plus a sense of the life and times of the era.

Bethel's Main Street is believed to have been first laid out in 1821, but the right of way (3 1/2 rods) was not firmly established until 1869. After the railroad came in 1851, the street was often described as a county road "leading from the Bethel Depot to Fryeburg." This survey begins as one crosses the railroad tracks on Route 26 and continues up the street to the Common. Sites 1-29 are on the left side of the street while sites 30-57 begin at the corner of Church and Main ("Honest Corner") and continue down Main to Railroad Street.

(continued on page 2)

1. Charles Mason (1827-1904) operated a store here in 1881 for the *Oxford Democrat* recorded he "was burned out" that year "receiving \$3,800 insurance." Woodbury & Purington, a partnership of Enoch Woodbury (1818-1899) and Josiah U. Purington (1847-1921), bought the lot in 1883, building a store which lasted into the early 1900s. The store was not always free from crime as this item from the 26 August 1902 *Oxford Democrat* bears testimony: "Tuesday night the store of Mr. J.U. Purington was entered and fifty dollars worth of goods carried off. The burglars entered by removing a pane of glass with a razor. They exchanged their old suits for new ones even to their underclothing and hats. They evidently worked leisurely for they made careful selection from the best of the stock. They took twenty-five dollars worth of knives, besides a quantity of tobacco, canned goods, etc. Three suspicious looking men had been around town all day, and there is strong evidence they are the guilty parties." The Berlin Grain Company purchased the building in 1925 and continued the grain and flour business with Wesley Wheeler as manager. He resigned in October 1925 and Roy Moore took over. Frank Robertson replaced Moore as the truck driver. J.B. Ham was here in 1926, selling grain and feed. John Harrington also worked for Ham at this location as well as on site 44. The J.B. Ham Company was sold to General Mills of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1929. It became the property of Farm Service Stores, Inc. until it was sold to Leslie Davis (1892-1961) in 1937. After renovations by G.N. Sanborn, Davis operated Davis Lumber Company here, followed by Charles Merrill's building supply and wood-working shop, Stanley Davis' Building Supplies and Hearthstone Furniture. There was more renovation undertaken for the furniture store, but a fire in the winter of 1972 destroyed the building. Sue Farrar's Dance Studio was here at the time of the fire; she lost all her equipment and accessories during the blaze. The lot stood vacant until 1995 when the ambulance garage from Cross Street was moved to the site and remodeled for the ambulance service by George Olson.

2. In 1907, the Herrick Brothers (Ed, Albion and George) built a garage on this site. The structure was constructed by John Swan and was torn down in the 1960s to provide additional parking space for Martha's Restaurant. Automobiles were sold here as well beginning in 1906 with Maxwells and REOs. Others who have operated an auto repair shop here have been Lawrence and Robert Lord, Gilbert Brown, William VonZintl, Marcus "Tim" Sweatt, and Roscoe Swain. Swain sold farm machinery, trucks, and appliances here. Ed Herrick (1865-1945) had a machine shop under the garage as did Edward Lowell, who operated a welding and machine business here in the 1950s. Avery Angevine sold "Jeeps" here in the 1940s. His brother Ernest had a chain saw, welding and pulpwood conveyor shop here from 1956 to 1959. In 1922, Robert Farwell was advertising tires and tubes vulcanized from this location. John Brown recalls a man named Menard from Rumford was a partner with Gilbert Brown and William VonZintl.

3. This building was once the shop and showroom for E.E. Whitney's Monuments. Eliphalet E. Whitney's (1867-1950) work lives on in the numerous monuments to some of Bethel's best known citizens in various Bethel cemeteries. During World War II, the building must have been vacant since Edwin Brown stored a "Cub" aircraft here. There was a barn and pasture in back which Wade

Thurston used for his milk cows. In 1946, Martha's Restaurant, which once operated on this site, was opened as Roadside Grille by William (1906-1983) and Martha Von Zintl (1913-1996). The Von Zintls removed the barn and made many improvements to the property. She sold the business to Frank and Rita Chapman in 1969. The following year, the business was purchased by Garey and Dorothy York, who operated it until 1985. It was acquired that same year by Joseph Gaidis who ran a restaurant here for a time and then an antique auction business. Later this was the site of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce. The building is now [1997] vacant.

4. In 1873, Hiram Twitchell (1834-1916), grandson of Eleazer (Bethel Hill's first settler), built the yellow house on this site. Asa Sessions (1874-1954), who was killed unloading a load of logs, was a subsequent owner. Hanover Dowel Company later purchased it and Harold White, Clifford Merrill, Royal Hodsdon, Frederick Kneeland, Richard and Phyllis Blake, Donald Walker, Vervion Lapham, Gilbert Brown and Daniel Forbes (1891-1958) were among the tenants who have lived here. In 1969, John T. Grover purchased the property and made extensive repairs. On 15 June 1981, he sold to Daniel Cousens, who operates a used and antique book store and rental property on the site.

5. In 1858, this house was marked "I. C. Kimball" on the 1858 wall map of Oxford County. It is known that Ira Crocker Kimball's daughter, the wife of Winslow Heywood, lived here for some time. A March 1889 issue of the *Oxford Democrat* reveals that "Charles McDemeritt has moved into the Heywood house owned by J.H. Philbrook." Clarence Annis (1863-1953) once owned the property. Others who have lived here are the families of Hiram Bean (1838-1921), Harry Lyon (1880-1966), Warren Bean (1914-1953), Herbert Lyon, who sold to Robert Whitney (1930-1980). Muriel Whitney, Robert's widow, owns the premises today. Herbert Lyon continues to have apple storage facilities here. He, his brother Richard, and John Bean had ponies here in the 1940s. Elizabeth Lyon Bane recalls a red storage building that once stood on this property, which was rented to a Mr. Thomes, who sold Raleigh products.

6. This house was built by Thomas Kendall (1837-1906). Occupants over the years have included Lyman Wheeler (1881-1961), William Young, O.A. Pratt, Donald and Dorothy Christie, Clayton and Elizabeth Bane, Norman and June Greig. Mrs. Greig lives here today.

7. On the 1858 atlas, this lot is marked "J. Brown," probably Josiah Brown (1815-1875), who was a shoemaker. Judge Enoch Woodbury came to Bethel in the 1870s. He first settled on Broad Street, but later moved to this site. He was the proprietor of a store here until 1892 when J.U. Purington became the sole owner. In the Bethel News of 15 April 1903, the Woodbury house was offered for sale by J.U. Purington. It was not until 16 October 1911 that Julia Barker purchased the property from the estate of Judge Woodbury. There have been many real estate transfers and occupants connected with this property. Once it was known as the Chute House, probably after the turn of the century, since there was a Mildred Chute who was a pupil in town in 1905. They were preceded by the family of Milton Penley (1846-1906), a meat peddler, who sold his business and meat cart to Harold S. Stanley (1878-1970) in 1906. According to the Bethel News for 12 February 1902, Penley was also the first one in town to sell ice, beginning in the 1880s. Mrs. Blanche Flint was their adopted daughter. After the new Bethel Inn was opened in 1913, Wallace

Kilgore employed Smith and Rumney to enlarge the building to its present size, and it was called "Maple Inn." Later the name was changed during World War II to "Gateway House." Following the Kilgore tenure, Frank Donahue was the proprietor. He was employed there in the 1920s when fire destroyed much of the hotel. Others operating the hotel have been Ray Lisherness, _____ Gray, Robie Watson, Marcel and Ella Fredey, William and Elizabeth Davis, Norman and Ethel Johnson, who sold to Howard Cole and Norman Greig. Burnham Morrill, John Gasser and Douglas Scott were the next three owners. The inn was closed for several years before being acquired in 1982 by David and Sherry Thurston, who have made extensive renovations. It became the Sudbury Inn in the late 1940s. Joseph Rosenfield, longtime owner of Grafton Lumber Company, roomed at this Inn for years in the 1940s and 1950s.

8. The Young house was built for Charles Mason sometime prior to 1858. Mason operated a store at the foot of Main Street. This residence was in the Mason family until sold by Harry Mason (1868-1971) in the late 1930s to Percy O. Brinck, whose daughter Kathryn operated a beauty shop upstairs for a short time. Richard Young (1918-1966) purchased the house of the Brinck heirs in the 1940s. It was later remodeled to make three apartments. The building was gutted by fire in the 1950s, but was rebuilt. Richard's son Donald sold the property to Norman Putnam, Alvin Barth and Robert Saunders about 1980. Later Robert Saunders became sole owner. He and his wife Linda live there today. Among the tenants who have lived here are Ernest and Dorothy Brink, Larry and Rose Sanders, Rudy and Joy Royer, Stan and "Kitty" Fox, and Colwyn and Judy Haskell. Dr. Ralph Hood, an osteopathic physician, once treated patients here.

9. The home of John and Janet Todd was marked on the 1858 atlas as "C. Crosby." Nothing is known of Crosby except in the 1860 census, the only Crosby listed in town was Charles Crosby, age 40, a joiner, originally born in Vermont. He was married to Frances Crosby, age 30, also from Vermont, and they had two children listed here, Charles, age 12, and Eudova, age 5. They must have left town since the 1870 census does not include them. In the 1870s, the house belonged to Judge Enoch Foster, who had a law office in a small building on the lawn. It was the same building that was moved in 1899 to Broad Street and became the Bethel Library, later incorporated as the stack section of the present structure. Foster sold the property to Purington on 4 July 1881 for \$2000, reserving the right to remove the law office before 1 July 1882. The Todd house was once a one story dwelling, which was believed to have been built in Northwest Bethel and brought down the Androscoggin River in the winter and set up at its present site, but after it was purchased by Josiah U. Purington, the following item appeared in the *Oxford Democrat* for 9 September 1890: "J. U. Purington has raised his house eleven feet and put under a story the past week. Mr. Roberts of Hanover has had charge of the work which has been most successfully accomplished. Gilbert Tuell has charge of the joiner work. Fassett & Thompson of Portland made the plans." Purington moved into his altered house May 1891. He was engaged in the retail business with Enoch Woodbury. In 1926, Dr. Widd Twaddle (1884-1963) became the next owner of the house after the Puringtons. At the time of Mr. Purington's death, the property was valued at \$2000. Charles E. Merrill (1895-1972) purchased the

(continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This column is a "plug" for local Society members to take advantage of two current opportunities to help shape the community's future--including the preservation of the area's historical character and assets.

The Town of Bethel's new Comprehensive Plan is entering the final stages of development and will be voted on at next June's town meeting. An important question is what should be done (or not done) to protect the Historic District and the town's overall historic character without placing an undue burden on individual property owners. Bethel residents are urged to make their views known to town officials and the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Community Conference '97, held on November 14, invited area-wide businesses, organizations, and residents to share ideas for a better future--over 150 participants did just that. One of the action groups formed wants to work toward establishing a major cultural/arts/crafts/historical center on Broad Street that would include the library, Foster-Straw House, Dr. Moses Mason house, and perhaps more.

Society members can make a very worthwhile contribution to both of these activities. I hope a number of you will be able to participate.

Walter Hatch

1997 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The 1997 Bethel Historical Society Annual Fund drive, chaired by Margaret Joy Tibbetts assisted by Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden Kennett and Louise Lincoln, is now in full swing. This fund assists the Society each year in keeping its books balanced and helps pay the on-going expenses of operations. If you haven't made a tax deductible contribution so far this year, won't you consider doing so. Please send all contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217. Remember you can give in honor or in memory of loved ones or a special person. Just let us know who you wish to honor or memorialize.

32nd ANNUAL MEETING

The 32nd annual meeting was called to order by the vice president Alvin Barth in the absence of president Walter Hatch on September 4 in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House. A delicious pot luck preceded the meeting supervised by the Special Projects Committee headed by Persis Post. Flowers for the tables were provided by Barbara H. Brown and the centerpiece by Geraldine Howe. Vice president Barth thanked the Committee for coordinating the supper and those providing the flowers.

A moment of silence was observed for all those members who had died since the last annual meeting: Euphemia Dick Hastings, Mary Folsom Champe, Virginia Weston, Harold Powell, Sumner Burgess, Wilfred Conary, Fred McMillin, Edwin Brown, Stuart Martin, Dr. Lawrence D. Kimball, Jr., Catherine Lyon Bush, Martha Long, Norris Brown, Esther Mitchell, Dorothea Hitzrot, Lettie Brooks, David Nichols, Carl Brooks, and Fred Hayden.

The vice president reviewed some of the highlights of the past year: several successful special events, acquisition

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

1997 Calendars (New England Barns or Covered Bridges) \$9.95
Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each
(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

Booklets (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents each

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1880 Map of Three Bethel Villages \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Post Cards: Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

Tote Bags (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50

Placemat, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

Books

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper
Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* \$20 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$15.99 Paper

Bethel, Maine Cemeteries \$9.50 Paper

Crosby, *From An Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95 Cloth
\$24.95 Paper

Grumet, ed., *Northeastern Indian Lives 1632-1816*, \$19.95 Paper

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard*
\$13.95 Paper

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad*
\$20 Paper

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore 1690-1764* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine, 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

Maine the Pine State: From Prehistory to the Present \$29.95 Paper

Mills, *Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family*
\$5 Paper

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$7.50 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Quality Paperback
\$39.95 Cloth

Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*
\$19.95 Cloth

C. Wight, *A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

P. Wight, *Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.



Randall H. Bennett, Society Curator of Collections (center), presents the 11th annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Jane and Richard Hosterman at the 32nd Annual Meeting.

(Annual Meeting, continued from page 3)

of a computer system made possible in part by a grant from Exxon, bequest from the estate of Olive A. Head to establish an educational fund, presentation of the preservation award to John and Janet Todd for their stewardship of the former Purington House on Main Street, the signing of a purchase and sale agreement with the Bethel Inn to acquire the Elms property to provide for additional space for Society operations, the addition of numerous items (photographs, documents, artifacts, etc.) to the collection from more than fifty donors, the addition of sixty new members, the establishment of a Capital Campaign Committee to raise \$900,000 for the purchase, renovation, and endowment of the Elms property for Society purposes, the raising of a record amount of money (nearly \$11,000) from a record 382 donors for the Annual Fund, hosting of the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution and the Maine Archives and Museums annual meeting, hosting a workshop sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History on historical agencies and their communities, the presentation of the Dr. Moses Mason Award to Martha Grover for her essay on local history, the Society's connection with the Internet and E-Mail capabilities, the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the first issue of the quarterly *The Bethel Courier* in 1976, and the opening of "Good Things Come in Small Packages" exhibit.

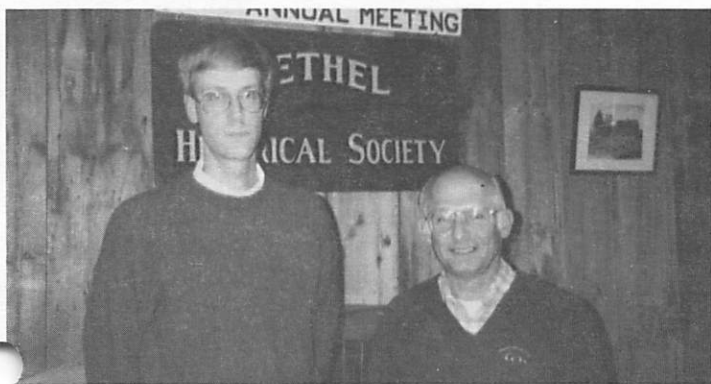
Five members were honored with honorary membership, the Society's highest membership honor. To be eligible, one must have passed their 75th birthday and have an outstanding record of service to the organization. Receiving certificates were Carolyn Brooks, Arlene Brown, Gertrude Hutchins, Virginia Hutchins, and Mary Keniston.

Society Curator of Collections presented the 1997 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Richard and Jane Hosterman for their many years of devoted service to the organization. Richard has served on the Program Committee for many years, on the Nominating Committee, and been a volunteer in numerous projects. Jane has served as vice president, president, and as a trustee. She has been the volunteer registrar for more than a dozen years and both have been generous donors of artifacts and supporters of the annual fund and other fund-raising projects.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Allan Abbott, Arlene Brown and Rebecca Kendall, chair, reported the following selections: President, Walter Hatch; Vice

President, Alvin Barth; Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees, Paul McGuire; Treasurer, Arlene Lowell; Trustee for three years Susan Herlihy. This reported was unanimously accepted and all of the above were elected.

Society Director Stanley R. Howe introduced the speaker for the evening, David Richards, who is Assistant Director of the Margaret Chase Library in Skowhegan. A native of New Hampshire, Dr. Richards was educated at Bates College, and received his M.A. in New England Studies from the University of Southern Maine, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of New Hampshire. He was formerly the Curator at the Shaker Museum in New Gloucester and recently completed his doctoral dissertation on the Poland Spring resort. In observance of the centenary of Margaret Chase Smith's birth in 1897, Dr. Richards outlined briefly the life of Maine's longtime U.S. Senator, who died in 1995. He predicted that Mrs. Smith's legacy might be her strong support of the nation's space program, her firm advocacy of women's rights particularly in the armed services, and her devotion to public service, integrity, and principle.



Featured speaker Dr. David Richards, Assistant Director of the Margaret Chase Smith Library, with Society Vice President Alvin Barth at the 32nd Annual meeting.

(Main Street, continued from page 3)

property in May 1945 and his widow lived there after his death. Grace Merrill once operated The Curiosity Shop here, where she sold gifts and novelties. The Merrills renovated part of the ell and barn into an apartment. Tenants here include Gerard and Minta Williams, the Smiley family, and Daniel and Nancy Grover. Following Grace Merrill's death 3 December 1980, the property was sold by her daughter Jacqueline M. Wilkins for \$58,000. A half interest went to Frank and Suzanne Iarrabino of Plymouth, MA. The other half interest was conveyed to William J. and Colleen Hill, also of Plymouth, MA. Mrs. Iarrabino ran a beauty salon briefly here before selling in 1984 to the present owners, John and Janet Todd. Mrs. Todd operated a spinning/weaving business in the barn until 1995.

10. The house at the lower corner of Main and Vernon streets seems to have been built later than 1880 because no house appears on this lot in the 1880 Atlas. It was once the home of Walter Chandler in the early days of this century. After he moved away, it became the home of Frank Flint (1874-1936). Henry and Leona Flint and family lived here as well. Celestine Flint Swan and her daughter Lorraine (Mills) also resided here. It was purchased from the Flint heirs by Dorothy Fadner, who renovated it and sold antiques here until 1969 when she moved to her present Mayville location. Other families who have lived here are



Recipients of Honorary Membership pose with Society Vice President Alvin Barth at the 32nd Annual Meeting. Left to right: Arlene Greenleaf Brown, Virginia Hutchins, Gertrude Hutchins, Mary Keniston, and Carolyn Brooks.

BOOK NOTES

Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett has written and is publishing a history of the Mount Zircon Moon Tide Spring. Based on years of research from a variety of sources, including those of the Bethel Historical Society, the book details the story of one of America's oldest and most historic commercial springs which opened in the 1850s as part of health spa and was used by a major bottling company in the Western Maine area until the early 1990s when it was closed. Approximately 120 pages in length with over 80 illustrations, the book is available from the author (P.O. Box 891, Bethel, ME 04217) at a special pre-publication price of \$16.95 each (\$19.95 after December 1, 1997) plus 6% sales tax for Maine residents and \$3 shipping for the first book and \$1 for each additional copy to the same address.

(Main Street)

the Ray Juhls and John Vrableys. The Vrableys sold to John and Barbara Gasser. Norman and Joan Putnam, were the next owners and created several apartments. It is now Cafe DiCocoa, operated by Catherine DiCocco, who with Edward Cellupica owns the building.

11. The place housing the operations of the Bethel Express Company since 1994 appears to have begun as the location of "Mun" Wormell's Marble and Granite Works. On the 1858 Atlas it is designated H.C. Foster. On the 1880 Caldwell and Halfpenny Atlas of Oxford County, Maine, it is marked G.W. Haskell Marble Works. Hattie Foster (1855-1931) lived in what is now John Shorb's house on Vernon Street in the 1920s. For years the lot was vacant and once owned by the Congregational Church; it was also the site of an attractive flower garden. In 1938, Tena Thurston (1867-1955) gave the lot to her grandson, Richard Young, who built the present structure and operated a filling station here. There have been a number of successors, including Charles "Pete" Chapin, Dale Thurston, Patrick Grenier, Roscoe Swain, and a bicycle assembly business. Ripley and Fletcher owns the property today. In the 1970s Eugene Brown had a body shop here.

12. The present real estate and office building, formerly the residence of Dale (1919-1986) and Aggie Thurston was built by Robert Chapman some time prior to 1858. The first family to have lived here was probably that of James "Snuffy" Dillaway, a man who had a shop in his back yard. There he did his "tinkering" and repairs. On 3 July 1883, following her father's death, Sabina Dillaway sold the

(continued on page 6)

(Capital Campaign, continued from page 1)

Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Jane Fife, Salt Lake City, Utah; John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Conway, NH; Florence Hastings, Bethel; Clayton and Helen Heath, Norway; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Kathy McLeod Hooke, Bethel; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Earlon and Mary Keniston, Bethel; John Kubac, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Mary March, Bridgton; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Dr. David Richards, Skowhegan; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; Dr. Ned Robertson, Cleveland Heights, OH; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Mary Valentine, Bethel; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Willard and Sylvia Wight, Newry; Eleanor Wilson, Bryant Pond.

Twitchell Family Challenge

Mrs. Roxanne Twitchell Sly has issued a challenge to all Twitchell descendants to join her in contributing enough to have one of the rooms named after the Twitchell family. The minimum price of a room is \$25000. Anyone wishing to learn more about this challenge is encouraged to call the society (800) 824-2910 or use E-Mail: history @ bdc.bethel.me.us.

Please send all tax deductible contributions to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

Donors may also choose the Agnes Hastings Straw Circle with contributions ranging between \$2500 and \$4999. The 21st Century is for those who wish to contribute \$999 in 1999 the year the Society is expected to assume occupancy of the Foster-Straw House. There are also naming possibilities for furniture and equipment.

The "Elms" of Bethel Inn stands beside the current Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House on Broad Street. In September, the Society launched an ambitious project to acquire, renovate and provide for operations of this building as a proposed addition to its facilities. Named for longtime former residents, the building would then be known as the Foster-Straw House. This would provide critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum store and craft operations, more adequate research room and collection storage as well as an education room for all ages. The proposed addition would also allow the Society to expand its focus to become a truly Northern New England institution and establish its Center for Local and Regional History with programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to that region.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

John A. Bremer, Shelbyville, IN
Jane Gehring Bouker, Naples, FL
Donald and Ruth Feeney, Bethel
Colywn and Judith Haskell, Bethel
Jean M. Hutchins, Bethel
Robert and Janet Speidell, Anaheim, CA
Jean S. Waite, Portland
Ann B. Webber, Washington, DC



Charles Raymond, Society Board Chairman, addresses the group gathered for the kick-off of the capital campaign in the back yard of the Dr. Moses Mason House on September 7.

(Main Street, continued from page 5)

place for \$1050. The Thurston kitchen was once a shed in Albany moved to the site by ox team. The barn was originally on Grover Hill. Harry D. Hastings (1872-1937) was a blacksmith here for many years. Jesse Bennett leased the shop in 1916. Leslie and Marie (1892-1959) Davis lived here following the destruction of their home and mill on Intervale Road in May 1944 until their new residence was built. The shop was demolished in 1990 and the modern garage on the property moved to take its place. Besides Mahoosuc Realty, other businesses here include Jane Grey, C.P.A. and the law offices of Michael Steven. Wild River Realty, Creative Management, Pleasant River Trading Company and One Pie Canning were formerly here.

13. This lot, once part of the Odd Fellows property, was the site of a small house used for several years by C.S. York, the photographer. The Oxford Democrat records the fact that York moved from High Street to Main on 25 June 1889. Irving Kimball (1875-1936), another well-known Bethel photographer, occupied the building in 1896 succeeding York. He soon departed for Boston and was succeeded by R.W. Glidden. In 1897, Wilfred Bowler purchased the Glidden Photograph Studio. He sold to H.B. Wright. In 1901, E.C. Vandekerckhoven (1877-1927) took over the studio. By 1908, W.L. Merrill leased the Van Studio. Following all this, a restaurant was operated here by Joseph Spinney. Later the property was the home for many years of Charles (1879-1934) and Rose (1881-1942) Brown, parents of Beatrice Brown Conrad (1908-1983), Leona Flint, Julia Brown, and Faith Brown. Charles Brown once had a barber shop here. Gary York bought the property from Mrs. Brown and resided here before moving across the street. The structure was razed in 1971. A mobile home was moved here and occupied by the families of David York and later James Young. The home was moved off the lot for a time and later replaced by another. The current resident is Steve Binnette.

14. The building, formerly the home of Mount Abram Lodge # 31, I.O.O.F., was built in 1890. The Lodge, where the Odd Fellows and Rebekas met for years, was disbanded in the early 1990s and now the building is operated by the Lions Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Previous occupants have been the Gospel Center and Sue Farrar's Dance Studio. Episcopal services were once held here about 1960 and the first floor was originally the sales room for the Bethel Chair Company. In 1893, Calvin Bisbee opened a store here, but closed it the following year.

Apparently E.B. Goddard moved here after he left the location across the street since in 1906 he sold his undertaking business here to E.C. Staples.

15. This house was built in 1860. In 1880, it was owned by Mary Needham (1846-1916). Her husband Frank (1844-1910) was later employed at the chair factory, which opened in 1887. Other owners have been Fannie Bisbee Lovejoy, Lucien Littlehale, Henry Flint, Susie Edwards, Beatrice Conrad (1908-1983), and Leona Flint. Tenants who have lived here are Jasper (1875-1858) and Jennie (1872-1960) Cates, Jessie (1908-1985) and Elmira Doyen, Viola Lord [Luxton], Mary Cummings, Dorothy Tucker, Richard Waldron, Joseph Perry, Helen Varner, Philip Parlin, and Dot Bean.

16. Holidae House was built by Nelson Springer in 1906. At that time he owned the dowel mill last known as Hanover Dowel Company below the railroad track (now part of the Bethel Station project) and his new house was wired for electricity thus becoming the first residence in town to be wired for this service. The Springers later moved to California and the house was purchased by Fred Edwards (1865-1947) who lived here until his death in 1947. After the death of his wife Susie (1870-1961), the property was willed to Beatrice Brown (Conrad). She opened Conrad's Tourist Home and operated an antique business here for many years. She died in 1983. After the death of her husband Cecil (1901-1984), the property was sold to Sheila Miller. She took guests and operated a bakery here for a brief time before selling to Tom McGinniss who greatly expanded the bed and breakfast operation. Eva Bean (1895-1969) had an apartment here during the last years of her life. Marie Nichols resided in the apartment here as well.

17. Bethel Methodist Church is the second such building on the site. The first, built at a cost of \$300 in 1860, was destroyed by high winds called a "cyclone" in the *Oxford Democrat* on September 19, 1891. A contemporary account described the scene: "The immense steeple yielded to the fury of the tempest, fell with a tremendous crash full length of the church. The organ and almost every pew were completely wrecked. The bell fell to the first floor. Everything went down but the walk. Had it been an hour earlier the results might have been awful as the regular prayer meeting would have been in progress."

In December 1891, the Society decided to rebuild at once and before the next Conference the sum of \$1350 had been raised. Persons from other denominations donated money as well. Besides cash subscriptions, friends gave an organ, a chandelier, and furniture. The new structure, still standing today, was dedicated on February 14, 1893, free of debt. A basement was added to the building in 1915. During that summer, services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall.

18. Brooks Brothers Hardware building appears on the 1880 map as a long extended structure. One side was occupied by A. B. Stevens Store and Tin Works. The Philbrook Street side housed the store of Samuel D. Philbrook (1838-1898). Philbrook sold to N.F. Brown in 1893. Gilbert Tuell once used part of the building as a carpenter shop. D. Grover Brooks (1892-1955) bought the business from Brown prior to American entry into World War I. He closed it briefly after being called into the service in 1918, but returned to this site upon his coming home from the war. He and his wife Alice Joy Brooks (1890-1954), town clerk of Bethel from 1924-1949, lived on the Philbrook side of the building until their deaths. Here Mrs. Brooks carried on her work as town clerk for twenty-five

years as well as assisting in the store. Their son Donald and wife Eleanor succeeded them living here until they moved across the street to the former Norman Sanborn property. D. Grover Brooks' brother Gerry (1878-1966) was the next resident and practiced law here as well. After his death, the apartment was rented successively to James and Rosaline Lassiter, Mary Carroll and Clarence Conroy. Following D. Grover Brooks' death in 1955, the building became the property of his sons, Dana and Donald. The business was incorporated in 1954 and the building extensively modified in the mid-1950s. Dana Brooks died in 1996; his children, Jack and Jeri, continue the family role in the business along with their uncle Donald.

(continued on page 10)



Norris T. Brown

MEMBER PROFILE

Norris T. Brown was born in Bethel in 1915, the son of Thomas and Edith Thurston Brown. He graduated from Gould Academy in 1933 and served in World War II as a First Lieutenant. He worked for Grafton Lumber Company and later for W. J. Wheeler Insurance for many years until his retirement. He was a director of Northeast Bank, a past trustee of the Bethel Library, and active in Masonic, Veteran of Foreign Wars and American Legion activities. He was married for over sixty years to the former Barbara Herrick and they had two daughters.

Norris was a life member of the Bethel Historical Society, who attended almost every monthly meeting. A generous donor of artifacts to the Society, he also served as a member of the Nominating Committee and for fifteen years made the beans for the Log Driver's Bean supper for Sudbury Canada Days. For his outstanding record of volunteerism he was selected as an honorary member by the Board of Trustees in 1991. He died in his 82nd year on 26 May 1997.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD DEMOCRAT, 20 August 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

After the opening of the Mississippi by the capture of Port Hudson, the 12th Maine Regt. was sent to New Orleans to do garrison duty and Col. Kimball was in charge of Camp Parapet during the autumn of 1863. On the first of January 1886, he led an expedition against Madisonville, LA, which was across Lake Ponchartrain to the east, which place he took without much resistance, capturing a number of guerrillas. But four companies of the Regt. were in this raid, I., K., B., and F. Companies A. and D. were at

(continued on page 8)

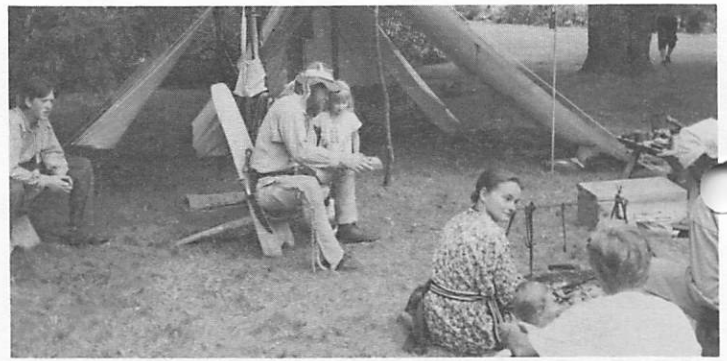
Camp Parapet. C. and H. doing provost duty at Carrollton. E. was on picket duty at Hickcock's Landing on Lake Ponchartrain and G. was on the same duty at Proctorville on the lake. Madisonville was held till the twelfth of March when the town was evacuated by reason of Gen. Banks having determined to make a spring campaign against the Rebel forces up the Red River. The scattered forces stationed around on the outskirts of the department were therefore called in to take part in this movement of the army or to be placed at the points most necessary to be held. It proved to be a disastrous expedition, and should never have been undertaken, at least not at that time and under the disadvantages which the commanding General labored.

The Regt. was spared the disasters of Red River campaign. Three fourths of the men having reenlisted for the three years, they were given a furlough to go home for thirty days. They embarked on the steamship Mississippi, April 16th, and arrived at New York in seven days. The order was to rendezvous at Portland on the 27th, where they received their furloughs and \$100 of State bounty. As we write these lines, we recall one of the scenes when the boys in blue came home on a furlough. How they were met at R.R. station and welcomed! How the good old mother loaded the table with the best that the farm afforded, and with a sufficiency to satisfy the appetites of a dozen men! How after the question of home had been answered, and the stories of camp life and of battle had been told, that there stole over us, the unwelcome fact that our soldier boy must go away again, and we counted the days of

EDITOR'S CORNER

It does not seem possible that we have had to revise, expand and update the history of Bethel's Main Street, published in 1978 so soon. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that the first effort drastically needed a new edition, particularly while Mrs. Chapman, one of the Society's Charter Members and a longtime associate of Society founder Eva Bean was able and willing to work on a new version. You will find Main Street the lead article in this issue and the remainder will be published in the Winter issue. As usual, Mrs. Chapman approached the task with her usual enthusiasm and with her wide knowledge of Bethel's past. I believe this is a great improvement over the last endeavor. It reflects the extensive research that has been done since the 1970s and the involvement of many people who have been consulted for information or read the entire typescript and made valuable corrections and additions. We will never know all we should about this street. There still are gaps in our knowledge that may never be filled. We have done our best with what we know at this time. Readers are urged to help add to the history or correct any remaining inaccuracies.

In the last issue, the caption on page 2 for the Conroy house is confusing. The living quarters within the Brooks Bros. barn were never connected to the Conroy house as the caption could be interpreted to mean. It should have read: "Former John Swan (now Conroy) house on Philbrook Street in 1926. In the background is the Brooks Bros. barn which contained living quarters for a number of people mentioned in the paragraph to the left of this photo." My apologies for any confusion this may have caused. SRH



The "Ancient Ones," a group of re-enactors celebrating life in the 18th century were featured as part of the attractions during this year's Sudbury Canada Days. The Mahoosuc Musicians and Old Grey Goose enlivened the four day event along with craft demonstrators and exhibits.

his tarrying. How at last the time for parting came, a hundred times more sorrowful than the first. He went away to do his duty as before and those he left behind went about their duties with such sorrowful hearts such as they had never known before. It was wrong for the Government to take advantage of the desire to visit once more the relatives and friends left at home and by holding up a furlough for thirty days induce the soldier to re-enlist. After the term had expired and he felt it was his duty to go again it would be well enough but under those circumstances it should never have been permitted. There were men enough in the North to draw from which the armies could have been replenished who hadn't been within sight of troops except see them march away. To be sure a veteran was worth at that time many raw recruits, but it was unfair and unjust to take such measures to retain him in the service. We do not blame the men who did not enlist in the fields and we know of cases where if the temptation to visit home had been resisted it would not be necessary today to evoke any authority at Washington to make the record clear and bright.

The re-enlisted soldier of the 12th Maine re-assembled at Portland on the 27th of May, where they received the balance of the state bounty and started again for New Orleans, arriving at that city on the 16th of June.

The Bethel soldiers who enlisted were sergeants A.M. True and John Cooper and privates O.D. Bartlett, Simon Grover, G.W. Harden, G. H. Merrill, Wm. C. Frye, F.O. Hall, O.E. Harden, I.N. Putnam, and O. Peverly. Three of these were "raw recruits" and were gathered in while the "boys" were at home.

On arriving at New Orleans the Regt. had orders to proceed to Morganza where it was stationed till July. On the 13th of that month it went aboard of the steamship Thomas A. Scott, which was ready to sail under sealed order. After moving down the rapid current of the Mississippi and out to sea, it became known the Regt. had been ordered to join the army of the Potomac under Gen. Grant at City Point, VA. It arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 20th, and was ordered to report to Gen. Butler at Bermuda Hundred, where that officer had been "bottled up" by the Rebel forces under Gen. Beauregard. Here the Regt. was attached to the 2nd Corps and Gen. Sheridan's command.

The Rebel Gen. Early's raid down the Shennandoah and across the Potomac toward Washington had frightened the people of that city, and Sheridan was assigned by Gen. Grant to turn the course of Early's movement in the opposite direction. The raid was made in the month of

July 1864, and was started for the purpose of forcing Gen. Grant to "let up" on his grip upon the Rebel capital, which invested with his army. It didn't succeed for the hero of "Sheridan's Ride" took command of the Union forces in that quarter, a military chieftain Early lacked the ability to "cope" successfully with.

The Regt. on the 31st received orders to proceed to Washington. It marched to Tenallytown, MD, the 2nd of August where it was encamped till the 13th. It crossed the Potomac and moved to Leesburg, was at Snickers Gap on the 17th, and fording the Shennandoah, the Regt. found Sheridan's army, which was watching the movements of the Rebel forces preparatory to bringing on a general engagement. On the 3rd of September the Union Army took position at Berryville with the enemy in its front in a strong position at Winchester.

(to be continued in the next issue)

IN MEMORIAM

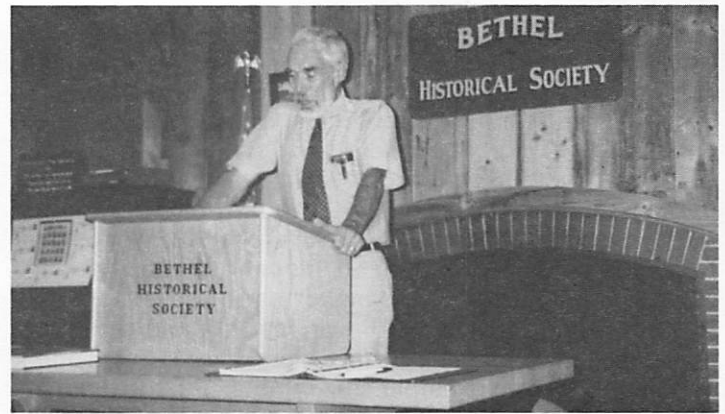
Died, 13 August 1997, Fred Hayden, Bethel, Senior Member

Died, 5 September, 1997, Gabrielle Howe, Rockville, MD, Life Member

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

1934--September 1, dressed poultry and got hay. Bob on market. Spuds 90 cents. September 2, went to Greenwood. Tennis. September 3, dug spuds with tractor.

Big crop. 80 bu. today from 9 rows. makes about 120 bu. to date. September 4, raining. Was to have painted today on shed. September 5, cloudy. Worked on Coburn cellar door. Made and put up Farwell's bulkhead door. September 6, painted on shed. September 7, painted on shed. Got the first coat all on. First pullet's eggs. September 8, misty day but painted all day. September 9, stayed home [in a.m.]. In p.m. went to Bethel and Grafton Notch. Beavers have built a new dam beyond Moose cave. September 10, school opened. Billy started school. 5 and a half years. Election day. Cut in Ceylon's ensilage. Plowed hen yards. Shower in p.m. September 11, painted. September 12, wet but painted under porches. September 13, painted. September 14, Bob broke an axle on truck at Snow's Falls and I went to Portland with his load in [Russell] Swan's truck. \$1.10 cwt. September 15, finished painting shed. Plowed and harrowed rye ground. September 16, went to Fryeburg for cranberries. Got about 20 qts. Fog and mist. September 17, rained hard all day and into evening. Went to Ben Tyler's and estimated on wiring for his barn. September 18, clearing. Picked Farwell's corn. September 19-20, cutting ensilage for Farwell. Run in some 50 loads and filled silo. Over 2 acres left standing. September 21, dug spuds 13 rows--100 bbl. September 22, Bob in Portland, digging bind-weed. weather warm and cloudy. Up till today have dug about 490 bu. and 100 bbl. today add 275 bu. for total of 765 bu. September 23, dug for Haakon and went to Greenwood. Good canoeing on the pond since they put the new dam in. Coles lost all their spuds by rot. September 24, rained in a.m. We dug spuds in p.m. 77 bbl. September 25, hot and sticky. We put in 173 obl. or 475 bu. September 26, hotter than ever. Dug bindweed roots all day. Bob in Portland. September 27, dug 514 bu. today. Better digging and picking. Looked wet in a.m. but burned off. Hot! About 5:30 p.m. we got a shower which cleared up the hot spell. September 28, clear and



During this year's Sudbury Canada Days, the Society's summer heritage festival, Bates College history professor James S. Leamon, author of Revolution Downeast: The War for American Independence in Maine, discussed Revolutionary Maine at the Sixth Annual Hall Memorial Lecture.

cold. September 29, rainy and cold. September 30, raining in a.m. Gathered garden and built fence. In the p.m. went to Umbagog Lake. October 1, our 11th [wedding] anniversary. clear and cold. Slight frost. Dug 514 bu. Big buck on interval. in evening gathered rest of garden. Built furnace fire for first time. October 2, cold. Dug spuds. October 3, cold morning. Digging. October 4, nice weather. 220 bbls. today. October 5, 225 bbls. October 6, raining. Wired Ben Tyler's barn. October 7, clear and warm. October 8-10, digging [potatoes] for Haakon. October 11, half day on our spuds. Rained. October 12, cold and windy. Dug all day. October 13, snowed about 2 inches. Leaves still on the trees. October 14, windy, snow melting. October 15, rained in morning. Didn't dig. October 16, dug on our spuds 250 bbl. in cellar. Dug and picked up 705 bu. October 17, digging on Haakon's. Nice day. October 18, finished our potatoes. 7500 bu. in all. October 19-20, dug John's [Howe] potatoes. 130 bu. October 21, Sunday. left home at 4:30 a.m. for Parmacheenee Lake on a hunting trip. Arrived and set up tent before 12M. Cut wood and made bed, etc. Rained in the evening. October 22, hunted. Rained. Wet and no luck. Saw 4 deer but flying. Jackson in other party filled. Doe and fawn. October 23, good hunting. Went up to Moose Brook. Late in p.m. got my deer, a wounded doe about 100 lbs. Dad got his deer, a big doe about 154 lbs. Henty [Morgan] got a skipper. October 24, went to Rump Pond. 80 feet above Parmacheenee and 3 miles north of it. Box spring on trail 340 ft. above lake. Partridge plenty. Shot two today, one yesterday. October 25, hot and dry. Poor hunting. No luck. Must get out to save deer. Went across carry with a load in eve. 3 miles one way. October 26, started day at 3:30 a.m. Took two loads across carry and took trailor back to upper end. George Nason met us at Big Eddy at 10:30 a.m. Got away from Dam at 1 p.m. Home about 5 p.m. I gave my doe to Uncle Millard [Emmons]. October 27, harrowed all day. Uncle Millard dropped dead at about 3 p.m. Heart trouble. Another good man gone. He was 77 years old but smart and well and a mighty fine man. October 28, took Dad to Ned's [Hastings] camp on Lower Kezar. October 29, spread manure. Broke spreader. October 30, Uncle Millard buried today. Masonic funeral service. October 31, plowing. November 1, rained. Finished wiring Ben's barn. Uncle John [Fifield] left for Paris. November 2, fixed spreader and used it. November 3, Bethel and chores. November 4, Greenwood and Paris. Raining. November 5, plowing. November 6, plowing and

(continued on page 10)

harrowing. November 7, harrowed crow piece. November 8, harrowed field. Put up load of spuds. Bob is getting 60 cents per bu. retail. November 9, spreading manure. Cold and windy. November 10, Bethel and odd jobs. November 11, went to Fryeburg after Dad. We had four inches of snow to celebrate Ruth's [his wife's 33rd] birthday. November 12, built barn-yard fence, etc. November 13, worked for Farwell's all day. Bulkhead door and butchering. November 14 [no entry]. November 15, jacked up barn and finished fence. November 16, carpentering and repairing. November 17, Bethel and worked for Farwells. November 18, Greenwood. November 19, raining. Put up load of spuds. Wired lights for [Sherman] Newton. November 20, rainy, but we shingled the back side of our garage. Fairly warm weather. Filed saw for Jean in evening. November 21, wet and freezing. Slippery. Hung up eaves trough. November 22, rainy. Finished garage roof. Went up in woods in p.m. cutting limb wood. Saw mighty buck just at dark on Conroy place. November 23, hunted in morning. No luck. Cut bushes and put up spuds. Rainy. November 24, rain. Heavy rain last night and still raining. Very warm. Went to Bethel, and made me a sheet-iron camp stove 30" long X 16" wide X 14" deep. In p.m. went into woods and cut limbs. Cut my finger on axe. November 25, Greenwood. Visited Tamminen's mine. November 26, built truck road to Bob's lot on Farwell Hill. Built bridge 12 feet long. Cut cord and birch and brought limb wood home. Cold and clear. November 27, snowing a little. Sawed wood for school house. Hauled one load from hill at night. Wet all day. November 28, misty. Sawed furnace wood. 3 loads here 3 in Bob's cellar and 1 at Coburn. Filled cellars. November 29, Thanksgiving Day. Warm and wet. Ground isn't frozen yet. Hit deer at over 80 rods. Just scratch. November 30, warm and wet.

(to be continued in the next issue)

(Main Street, continued from page 7)

19. The Bethel Bagel Shop building appears on the 1878 map as being joined to Samuel Philbrook's store. Presumably it was built by Philbrook. Fred Edwards was the next owner. It was purchased from Edwards by Ralph Young (1893-1982). From Ralph Young's estate it was acquired by Brooks Brothers which sold to Karen Brown-Mohr and Jeffrey Brown. A gift shop was here briefly before the owners leased the premises to a chiropractor Dr. David Smith and his successor Dr. Joseph DeMarco.

20. One Main Street Place stands on the site of what was long known as "Amestead," built some time prior to 1858 by Hiram Young, who ran a store at the head of Main Street. In 1858 it was owned by L. Twitchell. Samuel Dunn (1817-1876) purchased it 26 April 1868. Mrs. Irving (Agnes Guptill Kimball) Ames acquired it from the Dunn estate in 1908. During the Civil War it is believed gun powder was stored here. The house remained in the Ames family until purchased from Kimball Ames (1891-1986) by Bethel Town Manager Elwyn Dickey in 1968. Dickey sold it to the Kailey family in 1974; they converted it to Sunri Ski Shop. It was later Denison's Book Store and that was followed by the Fabric Emporium operated by Aline Dupont Crockett and then Fran & Shannon. Maine Street Realty and the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce were once here as well. Through the years there have been a number of people living here including Clayton and Elizabeth Bane, John Gilman, Donald and Arlene Brown, Floyd and Lavina



Michael R. Hathaway, author of Everything Happened Around the Switchboard, discusses at the June monthly meeting the Bryant Pond Telephone Company, the last hand crank phone company in the United States.

Bartlett, Charles and Kathryn Hamlin, Roger and Beatrice Favreau, Stanley and Margaret Davis, Jerry Tate, and Hilda Donahue. Sylvia Bird once had a beauty shop on the second floor. The building burned in 1988; the present building dates from 1989 and has housed a variety of businesses including the Mahoosuc Land Trust, True North Adventureware, Mountain Mann, and Wild Rose.

21. The next house acquired by Donald Brooks in 1963 was presumably built by Hiram Young (1819-1888), who ran a store at the head of Main Street. Others who have lived here were Edward King, William Hopkins, Ralph Sawyer, Wallace Warren, Jack Gill, Donald and Roma Stanley, Ralph Ryder, Edward Ferron, Helen Montague, Donald and Virginia Walker, Philip Rolfe, Steve and Mari Keene, Neal Brown, and Ruth Silver. Dr. Ralph Hood once operated an osteopathic practice here at one time. Dr. G.L. Kneeland had an osteopathic and optometry practice here the 1940s and 1950s. Edward Ferron operated an antique shop here for about eight years in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Current renters are Donna Lunney and Susan Horstman.

22. The site of Mother's Restaurant was marked "T. Barker" in 1858 and "L. T. Barker" in 1880. The former was undoubtedly Timothy Barker (1794-1875) and the latter was his son Leander T. Barker (1828-1911), undertaker, liquor agent, and town clerk. In 1908 the agency was under investigation. L.T. Barker testified before a legislative committee that there were probably some abuses. E.C. Bowler suggested that publishing the names of those who were buying large amounts of alcohol might serve as a deterrent. When L.T. Barker died, the agency was taken over by Hanno Packard (1862-1936). Following the death of Leander's son Philip (1889-1955), the property was purchased by Jesse Chapman (1889-1969). In the 1930s, it was used as a restaurant and tourist home known as "Duck Inn," where Jesse's mother Elizabeth Griffin was the proprietor and cook. Blanche Chapman (1905-1982), Jesse's widow, sold the property to Michael O'Donnell in 1974. It was later transferred to Susan Saunders O'Donnell (1942-1995). She and Patricia Hudson founded Mother's Restaurant. Later Mrs. Hudson transferred her interest to Mrs. O'Donnell. Following her death, the business is now owned by the O'Donnell children. Kara, the youngest, continues to operate the restaurant. One of the buildings out back was once used by H.I. Bean for lumber sales and storage. Durwood Mason was once a tenant here.

23. The site of the bakery, formerly Charlie's Place (founded by Charles Farrar) and April Lynn Flower Shop (operated by Ethelyn Wight), began as the Central Service Station, one of the first gas stations in town. It was initially operated by Frank Robertson (1887-1952) then by Jesse Chapman. Taxi service was added in later years plus a bowling alley with rents upstairs. Rodney and Kathryn Eames were operating the business in 1947 when it burned resulting in damages of \$4000. The building was repaired and renovated with more alleys added replacing the garage space. Blanche Chapman succeeded the Eames family in operating the business and for a time Ernest Angevine was the proprietor and owner. Jerry and Dorothy Emery managed the property for Angevine. Charles Farrar was the next owner. He sold to his daughter Michelle Keyes; she continued as owner until its sale to Theresa Bastinelli. A fire in 1992 destroyed this building and the adjacent structure. Sue Farrar's Dance Studio, which occupied the rear portion of the building was forced to move, eventually to a new site on Spring Street. Michael O'Donnell believes that Charles Farrar had the first pizza oven in town here and Ethelyn Wight had the first full-time florist shop on Main Street.

24. This building was built in 1859 by D.A. Twitchell (1831-1863) as "a store and dwelling house" according to an item published in the Bethel Courier on July 29th of that year. In 1867, Abner Davis and Moses Coburn Foster sold dry goods, clothing, crockery, and grain on this site. Davis sold to Foster on 3 May 1867 his interest in the business. Other merchants who have operated here have been C.K. Fox (1872-1933), Fred Roberts and Calvin Bisbee. H.I. Bean was once in partnership with Fox. In 1936, Leroy (1890-1954) and Abbie Brown (1893-1980) came to Bethel from Fryeburg and they and son James and wife Beatrice operated Brown's Variety here for more than forty years before the business was sold to Martin Mendoza in 1984. During its heyday, Brown's was the place that one could find a wide variety of merchandise from candy to office supplies to sewing materials and boots and clothing and housewares. Mary Gillies acquired the property in the late 1980s. Edward and Mary Jo Kennett were the next owners of the building and operated their real estate business here prior

to the 1992 fire. They still own the vacant lot. Leroy and Abbie lived over the store for years. Lucy Fox, sister of Clarence, once served meals in the apartment upstairs. Jack Matheson (1884-1970) also lived upstairs as well. Arlene Brown once took in boarders here. Among the boarders who lived here were Mildred Garoway and Rudy Belanger.

25. The Michael J. O'Donnell house was here prior to 1858. At that time it was occupied by Rev. E.A. Buck, the Congregational Minister. It has been said that this house was moved to this site, but no record has been found to prove this contention. Old deeds refer to it as the parsonage, but the dates that it served as such are not clear. Michael O'Donnell is "positive that prior to the current house, there was a small house located on the premises that was used as and referred to in old deeds as the parsonage." C.M. Wormell, Bethel sheriff and detective, lived here for years. Dr. I.H. Wight resided here from 1902 until his death in 1931. His nephew Dr. Harry Wilson assumed his

(continued on page 12)



At the April monthly meeting another oral history night was observed. A panel consisting of (left to right) Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Robert Keniston, Edna Bean York, Phyllis Davis Dock, Beatrice Brooks Brown, Stanley Brown, Rosalind Rowe Chapman, Rodney Howe, and Arlene Greenleaf Brown discussed their memories of Frank Edward Hanscom, who became principal of Gould Academy one hundred years ago this year.

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Membership in the Society entitles you to:

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2. special discounts in the museum store
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- ☐ Life under 55 years (Couple) - \$200
- ☐ Individual Preference (any amount over \$10)
- ☐ Corporate - \$50

practice and lived here when he first came to Bethel. Dr. Wilson sold to Jesse and Eva (1893-1945) Chapman. Eva ran a boarding house for years. Margaret and Louella "Tootsie" Belanger helped her with the housework. Among the tenants were Arthur and Beryl Morgan, Winfield and Bette Whitman, Ruth Dorion, Merton "Onion" Brown, Phillip "Gramp" Barker. Bertha Clements (later known as Sue Farrar) had her first dance studio here. Lester Enman had a barber shop on the Spring Street side of the building. Earlon Paine was the next owner, selling to attorney O'Donnell in 1968, who has operated a law office here since that date.

26. On the 1858 atlas the house now owned by Richard and Ellen Whitney and operated as Maine Line Products was labeled "G. Blake." He once owned a store at the corner of Main and Church streets. In the 1880 book of maps of Oxford County, "Miss L. Hall" is listed as living here. Elmer Young (1858-1921), the harness maker, once lived here and was survived by his wife Annie (1856-1945). Bess Sloane lived with Mrs. Young for several years. Following Mrs. Young's death, the house was vacant, except for a brief period when it was rented by Dr. Kneeland mentioned above. Addison and Emily Saunders and their five children were the next occupants and lived here for many years. From Hanover Dowel Company (owned by the Saunders family), the house was sold to Wendell and Linda Sharp, who briefly operated an antique business here called "Tinker's Dam." They sold to the present owners in 1983. The Whitneys reside on the second floor. Michael O'Donnell and his family resided here from September 1967 to August 1968.

(to be continued in the next issue)



A Classic Car for the Capital Campaign! Life member Robert Goodwin (center) officially hands the keys of a 1958 Plymouth Belvedere to Society Board Chairman Charles Raymond to benefit the capital campaign. Looking on in front of the building, which the Society expects to acquire from the Bethel Inn, are left to right Allen Connors of the Bethel Inn, Charles Raymond, Robert Goodwin, Susan Herlihy and Arlan Jodrey, Society Trustees. The Society is currently offering the car to anyone making the best offer. It once belonged to Muriel Park Mason, a cousin of Robert Goodwin, who has given the car to the Society for the campaign to allow the Society to expand its space and establish the center for Local and Regional History.

*Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910.
E-Mail: history@bdc.bethel.me.us*

ISSN 0749-9108

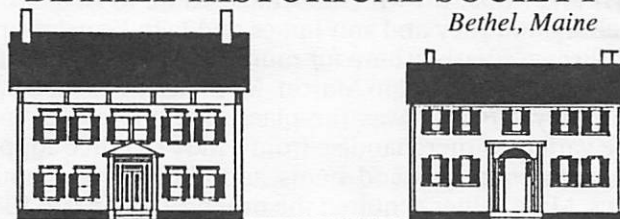
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Bethel, Maine



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